



Critical times for Amenity Pesticide Use

With changes in legislation, funding cuts and related items, the focus on amenity pesticide use has never been greater. All users need to be fully aware of developments and act appropriately

Steve Hewitt

**Chairman of the Amenity Forum
Education and Skills Committee**



Issues for the sector

Challenging times

- funding cuts
- Sustainable Use Directive
- other factors

SOME ISSUES TO BE COVERED

- Understanding of the sector and its importance
- Economic Cuts – the danger to quality & standards
- Investing in training
- Weed control on hard surfaces
- Managed Amenity Turf & the Use of Pesticides
- The impact of legislation
- Invasive Weeds

UNDERSTANDING THE SECTOR & ITS IMPORTANCE



Clear lack of
understanding

- why pesticides are needed
- their importance to sector

This lack of knowledge

- wide range of people
- consumer to policy maker

Creates real issues

- financial decisions
- policy
- standards

Amenity Forum is focus

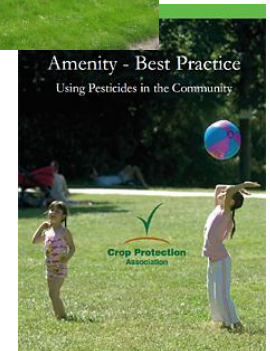
- represents
- provides views of the sector

Amenity is an essential sector impacting on us all

AMENITY & INDUSTRIAL WEED/ PEST CONTROL

The use of amenity pesticides covers a wide range of commercial, industrial, public, leisure and recreation areas.

- sports grounds and pitches
- golf courses
- cemeteries
- car parks
- industrial sites
- parks and other public open spaces
- woodland areas
- footpaths and pavements
- transport infrastructure/highways
- defence estates



SOME FACTS REGARDING AMENITY USE OF PESTICIDES



In 2005 21,800 tonnes active ingredients sold in UK
750 tonnes of this were used in amenity

Amenity use 91% were herbicides
9% algaecides, fungicides, moss killers,
insecticides

LA use of 43% on hard surfaces
herbicides 38% on turf or amenity grass.



Source CRD survey 2008

Results from the most recent survey will be available soon

ECONOMIC CUTS

– THE DANGER TO QUALITY & STANDARDS



Amenity Forum
Consultation

- Real concerns
- Many contracts changing emphasis to cost

Example of a major authority contract

2009 weighting

50% price

20% safety

20% delivery

10% quality

Same contract tender 2011

70% price

10% programme

10% resource

10% technical & methodology



Now **No** direct reference to **safety** & only 10% on delivery

ECONOMIC CUTS – THE DANGER TO QUALITY & STANDARDS



Amenity Forum research

- this is not an isolated case
 - consequences need highlighting by us all
-

Forum continues to lobby

- brief report on consultation to be published soon
-

Important conference
Tues 04 October (see later)

- Amenity Forum open meeting
- results of consultation will be discussed



INVESTING IN TRAINING

A KEY FACTOR



THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING & RAISING STANDARDS

- This is a key focus for the Forum
- A great deal of work has been undertaken
- Enhanced CPD systems are in place
- Training schemes have been reviewed
- The Amenity Assured standard

The Amenity Forum seeks to be a key driver for better standards in amenity and the key provider of “best practice” principles.



AMENITY PESTICIDE QUALIFICATIONS



Operators	PA1, 2, 6 etc	City & Guilds NPTC
* Managers Supervisors Specifier	Environmental Pesticide Management	BASIS
Managers Supervisors Specifiers Career	Foundation Award in Amenity	BASIS
Managers Advisors Decision Makers	Field Sales & Technical Staff Certificate	BASIS

THE AMENITY REGISTERS



Operators:



**National Amenity Sprayer
Operators Register**

Specifiers / Managers:

**BASIS Amenity
Register**



- Recognition
- Compliance
- Full members – ongoing advice
- Continuance of qualification
- Understanding of professional pesticides
- ID card of membership



WEED CONTROL ON HARD SURFACES



Recent in depth study of two councils in the North of England undertaken by Amenity Forum

Responsible for weed control

- along roads and highways (one with 1000km and the other 3000km)
- road verges
- footpaths
- in parks
- other amenity areas.

Both cases

- approx 50/50 split between urban / rural
- terrain is very variable.



Chemicals Used



Pesticides for weeds
on hard surfaces



extensively used by both councils
main product is glyphosate
smaller amounts of glyphosate +
sulphosulphuron
(diflufenican is used in Ireland but
is not approved here yet)

All-year-round work

Highway spraying between
early-April and late-October.

Principal aim is to
“*eradicate all weed growth*”

roadsides, pavements & other
hard surfaces

Both Councils have introduced and evaluated alternative
methods such as mechanical weeding and burning
but they proved less effective and more costly

How much weed control do we want?



Review of current practice by both Councils:
‘How much weed control do we need and to
what standard?’



Unanimous answer given – current standards
must be maintained or enhanced!

The Thanet Study



3 main methods
of control

- Two sprays per year
 - One spray at some time in year plus either burning or mechanical means
 - No spray but all burning or mechanical means
-

Study findings

- Too early to report in detail
 - but to achieve the required level of control cost goes up as less pesticide used
-

Also investigating

- run off measurements
 - method of application vs impact
-

The Forum is co-operating with the study

A presentation on this important area will be made at the October 4th Event

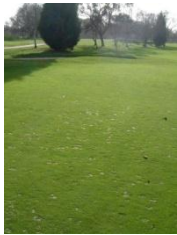
MANAGED AMENITY TURF & THE USE OF PESTICIDES



Managed amenity turf

“areas that are frequently mown and intensively managed including fields used for turf production, sports turf and golf greens, tees and fairways”

Turf type depends on use



- traditionally fine bent / fescue swards for bowling greens / golf greens
- creeping bent grass now commonly found
- ryegrass / meadow grass for football pitches etc.

Common turfgrass diseases

- microdochium patch (fusarium)
- anthracnose basal rot



Most damaging pests

- earthworms & leatherjackets



MANAGED AMENITY TURF



Principal aim



- maintain quality turf throughout the year



Control of diseases

- requires a multi agent approach
- cultural ensuring the right feeding
- management reducing stress
- integrated techniques
- pesticides

Whilst the aim is to minimise pesticides, it still remains very necessary in many cases.

MANAGED AMENITY TURF



Control of pests requires a similar approach

Two insecticidal and ten fungicidal active ingredients are approved for the control of turf-grass pests and diseases



Amenity products

often more expensive than agricultural products, due to their specific formulation and the rigours of safety testing

range more limited in amenity situations

Integrated methods now widely practised but use of pesticides remains essential

SUD Legislation Update



Forum has lobbied

Ministers
Press releases
highlighting key issues & concerns

Implementation detail

Still unclear
Concerning given set timescales

Reduce bureaucracy
increase efficiency

We support Government's drive
But we are concerned that this
does not lower standards

Forum still lobbies

All Government Departments
especially the Department for
Communities and Local Government



CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE

- Controls may not be maintained but reduced
- Could damage much that has been achieved in terms of standards & public safety
- If SUD just transposed into UK law, changes would undermine the current user and adviser certification and training
- Forum has done much to improve standards and encourage use of CPD for qualified staff
- SUD states that Member States are required to “*provide access*” to training, **rather than** all operators and advisers must be trained and certificated by law.
- This is backward step and Forum urges Government to make a clear commitment to current standards
- We believe that the Directive should reinforce controls on the use and distribution of pesticides, rather than weaken them.



CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED




IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE

Urge Government to continue current statutory requirement

- certification of sprayer operators
- same requirement for all advisers
- provisions for CPD

Forum promotes best practice distribution and use of pesticides underpinned by legislation protect & enforce minimum standards



Change in legislation would be backward step after sector set the very best of standards

Amenity recognises still much to be done must not see slippage in this requirement

Invasive Weed Management



Invasive weeds spread rapidly

- degrading the biodiversity and wildlife value of an area
- difficult to eradicate
- especially problematic in sensitive habitats

For effective control

- need rigorous vegetation management
- Adherence to best practice is vital
- guidelines can be found on Forum website

Japanese Knotweed

Giant Hogweed

Giant Hogweed

Himalayan Balsam

Horsetail

Common Ragwort

Rhododendron

Buddleia



Amenity Forum



A collective body representing amenity industry regarding pesticide use

Objectives

- promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides
- integrated methods for the control of pests, weeds and diseases.
- lead, coordinate and encourage "Best Practice" objectives in amenity pesticide use.
- coordinate and encourage establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity
- organise activities for membership
- objectives are developed in a coordinated way.

The Amenity Forum



– some examples of its actions and activities:

- Prepare and issue Guidance Notes to support ‘Best Practice’
- Organise Conferences, Seminars, Consultations and Workshops
- Brief UK and European politicians & other key stakeholders about the amenity sector
- Work closely with the Chemicals Regulation Directorate to ensure the Amenity Action Plan meets the requirements of the National Pesticides Strategy.
- Lead on developments in training, CPD and related matters.

The Amenity Forum is a focus to provide the views of the sector



IMPORTANT DATE

**AMENITY FORUM
NATIONAL EVENT**

**STONELEIGH PARK
WARWICKSHIRE**

TUESDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2011

NATIONAL EVENT 04 OCTOBER

1. **Maintaining standards & quality in challenging economic times –**
Professor John Moverley
2. **SUD : Where are we now?** – Adrian Dixon, CRD
3. **Controlling weeds on hard surfaces** – Neil Hipps, Thanet Research project
4. **Integrated weed control for sports & leisure surfaces – some issues**
– Dr. Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection, STRI
5. **The importance of training & commitment to continuing professional development** – Steve Hewitt, City & Guilds
6. **What are the key issues & priorities for the sector and the Forum –**
Group discussions led by Gary Harland, Wakefield Council, and Paul Singleton, BASIS
7. **Concluding Remarks** - Danny Hayward, Managing Director, JSD Rail Research & Development

Cost £20 per delegate

**For a place, please contact Alan Spedding,
alan.spedding@btopenworld.com**





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AMENITY FORUM NATIONAL EVENT, Tue 04 Oct

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